The Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories not only takes Palestinian land for Israeli use. The settler-only structures and infrastructure also annex land and cut off Palestinians from each other, curtail their ability to move freely, and make it difficult – and often impossible – for students to go to schools, patients to visit hospitals, and farmers to access their land to grow food.

**Separation Wall = Land Grab**

- The Separation Wall snakes deeply into Palestinian territory in the West Bank, and does not follow the internationally recognized 1967 Green Line. Some Palestinian cities and towns are completely surrounded. Stretching even further than the Wall itself, in some areas buffer zones extend from 30 to 100 meters on the Palestinian side.

- Upon completion, the Wall will de facto annex nearly half of the West Bank. The eastern part of the wall annexes the fertile farmland of the Jordan Valley. A similar barrier and buffer zones close off the Gaza Strip.

- Up to half a million Israeli settlers live in 125 official settlements and more than 100 unofficial settlements in the West Bank. The settlements are accessed through paved and walled-off segregated Israeli-only roads which also cut through Palestinian land.

- Settlements are built on former Palestinian villages and agricultural land. Before building settlements, Israeli Defense Forces destroy existing homes, farms, roads, buildings, and infrastructure. Since 1967, 25,000 Palestinian homes have been demolished, displacing 160,000 Palestinians.

**Farmers, Agriculture, and the Occupation**

- Palestinian history is deeply rooted in agriculture. In the past the majority of Palestinians made their living through farming.

- Occupation makes farming nearly impossible for many Palestinian families because the Wall separates farmers from their land or water sources.

*—Areet Ja’ fari, Palestinian youth*
Farmers must ask for permits from Israeli authorities to work their land beyond the Wall—even if it is within the 1967 boundaries. 42 percent of such applications are denied. Even when accepted, permits are often delayed until the agricultural season is over or granted for extremely short periods making the work exhausting or impossible.

When the Wall and the permit system make it impossible for farmers to access their land, the State of Israel claims and expropriates the “unused land” based on a British colonial era law of eminent domain.

In Gaza, the buffer zone cuts farmers off from 35 percent of the area’s agricultural land and farmers risk being shot at when they try to access their land in the buffer zone.

Veolia: Profiting From the Land Grab

A French multinational company, Veolia supplies privatized municipal services such as transportation, waste management, water, and energy in the United States and around the world.

In the occupied West Bank, Israeli subsidiaries of Veolia operate a settler landfill in the Jordan Valley that serves as a dump for Israeli waste from within Israel and from illegal settlements in the occupied territories, in violation of international law.

Veolia is also the world’s largest water privatization business.

Veolia owns shares in and operates the Jerusalem Light Rail. The Jerusalem Light Rail is an infrastructure project connecting Jerusalem with Israeli settlements on Palestinian land.

Recent campaigns against Veolia have led the company to sell off its bus lines, previously operated on segregated Israeli-only roads in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Veolia has been targeted by multiple human rights campaigns and campaigns against water privatization.

What You Can Do:

- **Sign a petition** to push TIAA-CREF to divest from companies that profit from the Israeli occupation.
- **Donate** to Grassroots International, to accompany our Palestinian partners in their struggle for rights to land, water, and food sovereignty.
- **Spread the word** with your networks, friends and family.
- **Join** our e-advocacy list to receive e-mails with actions you can take.